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United States of America
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9 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
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11 EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

12 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

CASE NO. 2:25-CR-0026-TLN

13 Plaintiff,

14 STIPULATION AND JOINT REQUEST FOR
15 PROTECTIVE ORDER; [PROPOSED]
16 PROTECTIVE ORDER

v.

17 JOHN KEVIN PARKER,
18 VERONICA BROOKS,
19 XAVIER SURITA,
20 RAYMUNDO ESCOBAR,
21 MARCELINO ESCOBAR, and
22 DEVON NELSON,

Defendants.

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27 I. **STIPULATION**

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31 1. Plaintiff United States of America, by and through its counsel of record, and defendants
32 John Kevin Parker, Veronica Brooks, Xavier Surita, Raymundo Escobar, Marcelino Escobar, and Devon
33 Nelson, by and through their respective counsel of record (“Defendants” and “Defense Counsel”), for
34 the reasons set forth below, hereby stipulate, agree, and request that the Court enter a Protective Order in
35 this case restricting the use and dissemination of certain materials that could identify undercover agents
36 and/or confidential sources, and/or that contain personal identifying information (“PII”) and other
37 confidential information of real persons.

1 2. This Court may enter protective orders pursuant to Rule 16(d) of the Federal Rules of
2 Criminal Procedure, Local Rule 141.1, and its general supervisory authority.

3 3. On February 6, 2025, a grand jury returned a superseding indictment in this case.

4 4. As part of its investigation in the above-captioned case, the government is in the
5 possession of documents and other materials relating to the charges against the Defendants, and seeks to
6 provide those materials to counsel for the Defendants. The government seeks to do so pursuant to its
7 discovery obligations, although some of the materials may exceed the scope of the government's
8 discovery obligations and will be produced to promote a prompt and just resolution of the case.

9 5. The government intends to produce to Defense Counsel: (1) audio recordings, video
10 recordings, photographs, investigative reports and/or other documents that could identify law
11 enforcement undercover agents and/or confidential sources; and/or (2) materials containing PII and other
12 confidential information of real persons. These real persons are third parties, co-conspirators, and/or
13 witnesses to this case. This discovery will be considered "Protected Material" as described in this
14 stipulation and order, as will any other discovery marked as Protected Material.

15 6. The purpose of this stipulation and order is to establish the procedures that must be
16 followed by Defense Counsel, any designated employees, and any other individual who receives access
17 to any Protected Material in this case and the information therein.

18 7. The Government shall produce the aforementioned Protected Material to Defense
19 Counsel, designating the discovery with the bates prefix, "PARKER_etal_pm_." This discovery, and
20 any subsequent material discovered by the Government to Defense Counsel using the bates-prefix, shall
21 be considered Protected Material.

22 8. All Protected Material in this case is now and will forever remain the property of the
23 Government. It is entrusted to Defense Counsel only for purposes of representing their respective
24 Defendants during the pendency of this case.

25 9. Defense Counsel shall not give any Protected Material to any person other than Defense
26 Counsel's staff assisting in preparation of the present case. The term "staff" shall explicitly include only
27 attorneys, paralegals, legal assistants, retained experts, and investigators assisting Defense Counsel in
28 the present matter. The term excludes any person involved in any case in which discovery concerning

1 the Defendant is produced and any other person other than those specifically authorized to see Protected
2 Material under this paragraph.

3 10. Any person receiving access to the Protected Material from Defense Counsel shall be
4 bound by the same obligations as Defense Counsel and, further, may not give any Protected Material to
5 anyone.

6 11. No members of any Defendant's family, friends of any Defendants, personal or
7 professional associates of any Defendant, or any other person affiliated with any Defendant shall be
8 given access to any Protected Material or its contents in any manner, for any reason. Some of the
9 Defendants in this case are family members, and the government will disclose discovery individual to
10 each Defendant individually. No one else may share discovery with any members of any Defendant's
11 family.

12 12. Defense Counsel may make copies of Protected Material and may take written or typed
13 notes summarizing it in connection with preparation of the case. If necessary to the litigation of the
14 instant matter, Defense Counsel may also have audio or video forms of Protected Material transcribed.
15 All notes, copies, duplicates, summaries, transcripts, or other representations of or concerning the
16 information in the Protected Material comprises "Protected Material" itself, must be affixed with the
17 corresponding bates numbers and the "Protected Material" ledger, and is subject to all terms of this
18 stipulation and order.

19 13. Defense Counsel shall maintain a list of persons to whom any Protected Material is being
20 or has been given. Such persons shall be provided with a copy of the executed version of this stipulation
21 and order, shall sign their full names to a copy, and shall in writing acknowledge that they understand its
22 terms and are bound by it. If Defense Counsel is replaced for any reason, or if new counsel is appointed
23 in any phase of the matter, the new counsel shall not have access to any Protected Material until and
24 unless they sign a copy of this stipulation and order, under the terms described in this paragraph.

25 14. Defense Counsel may use the Protected Material in the defense of the instant case in any
26 manner deemed essential to adequately represent their respective clients (i.e., in motions that are filed
27 under seal, if necessary; in ex-parte applications as may be needed; and in reproducing and summarizing
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1 Protected Material for use in trial preparation summaries, exhibits and as evidence, as may be needed),
2 consistent with this stipulation and order as it shall be originally prepared and signed.

3 15. In the event Defense Counsel needs to use any Protected Material in a manner not
4 authorized under this stipulation and order, Defense Counsel is entitled to seek to have this stipulation
5 and order amended by the District Court, after having given notice to counsel for the Government, in a
6 hearing before the District Court, in order to meet the obligations under the Sixth Amendment to the
7 United States Constitution.

8 16. Defense Counsel and any authorized members of Defense Counsel's staff are authorized
9 to review with their respective Defendants the contents of the Protected Material. Defense Counsel and
10 authorized members of their staff, however, are prohibited from in any way giving the Defendants any
11 Protected Material or any memorialization of the content of any of it, such as: any of the Protected
12 Material itself; copies of any of the Protected Material; copies of excerpts of any of the Protected
13 Material; or summaries of any of the Protected Material. This prohibition will not extend to the
14 Defendants viewing the Protected Material in open court should any of these materials or summaries
15 thereof be used in the litigation of this case.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: February 11, 2025

MICHELE BECKWITH
Acting United States Attorney

By: /s/ EMILY G. SAUVAGEAU
EMILY G. SAUVAGEAU
Assistant United States Attorney

Dated: February 11, 2025

/s/ TASHA CHALFANT
TASHA CHALFANT
Counsel for Defendant
JOHN KEVIN PARKER

Dated: February 11, 2025

/s/ DANICA MAZENKO
DANICA MAZENKO
Counsel for Defendant
VERONICA BROOKS

1 Dated: February 11, 2025

/s/ OLAF W. HEDBERG
OLAF W. HEDBERG
Counsel for Defendant
XAVIER SURITA

4 Dated: February 11, 2025

/s/ CHRISTINA SINHA
CHRISTINA SINHA
Counsel for Defendant
RAYMUNDO ESCOBAR

7 Dated: February 11, 2025

/s/ CLIMENTE JIMENEZ
CLIMENTE JIMENEZ
Counsel for Defendant
MARCELINO ESCOBAR

10 Dated: February 11, 2025

/s/ F. PHILLIP COZENS
F. PHILLIP COZENS
Counsel for Defendant
DEVON NELSON

19 **[PROPOSED] FINDINGS AND ORDER**

20 The Court having read and considered the Stipulation and Joint Request for a Protective Order,
21 which this Court incorporates by reference into this Order in full, hereby finds that GOOD CAUSE
22 exists to enter the above Order.

23 IT IS SO FOUND AND ORDERED this 11th day of February, 2025.

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SEAN C. RIORDAN
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE